

Applicant: Juhana Lumiala
Application No.: 10/009,038
Art Unit: 1731

Remarks

Claims 8-11, and 15-18 remain pending in the application. In the Office action dated Feb. 3, 2004, claims 8-11 and 15-18 were rejected as obvious over DE 42 39 845 or with *Weissdhuhn et al.* or EP 0824 157. Claims 12-14 have been canceled in accordance with the restriction requirement.

Enclosed is a translation of the Abstract of a reference first cited by the examiner (DE 42 39 845).

None of the references cited by the Examiner discloses the arrangement in accordance with the claimed invention. In the claimed invention, dilution profiling is accomplished in two stages such that coarse control of the basis weight profile is performed in the first dilution stage with widely spaced valves and fine control of the basis weight profile is performed in the second dilution stage with more closely spaced valves. The arrangement in accordance with the claimed invention makes it possible to achieve basis weight profiles that are better than previously because the accuracy of control is considerably better than that of the prior art arrangements.

The examiner's conclusion that "It would have been obvious to the routineer that the first set of valves would provide course basis weight control and the second set of valves would further modify the basis weight (fine control) of the already coarsely adjusted control provided by the first set of valves." does not address applicant's claim limitation directed to the relative spacing of the first and second valves. Further the examiner's statement is a conclusion without supporting reasoning or substantial evidence. Nor does the examiner point to any expectation within the prior art that an arrangement as set fourth in the claims would be successful. Thus the examiner fails to make a *prima facie* case of unpatentability.

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Applicant submits that the claims, as filed, are in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Abstract of DE4239845

To measure the effect of adjustment to the flow of fibre suspension from a stock inlet, the lateral layer thickness profile is measured at the start of the initial water extraction stage and the mass lateral profile of the web is measured at the end of the water extraction stage or at a further suitable point. The correlation between the two measurements is calculated. If there is a deviation in the mass without correlation with the layer thickness, then a counter corrective action for the fibre suspension concentration is indicated at the corresponding stock inlet section. With a deviation in the layer thickness without correlation with the mass, then a correction is indicated for the flow volume at the appropriate stock inlet section. If there is a deviation in both measurements, in the same direction, the suspension flow volume is corrected as indicated at the stock inlet section. With a correlated deviation in both measurements, in opposite directions, each deviation is treated as an uncorrelated shift.

ADVANTAGE - The method gives a clear indication on a deviation of prod. quality, which of the two parameters has to be adjusted and in which direction.

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